

E-Mail

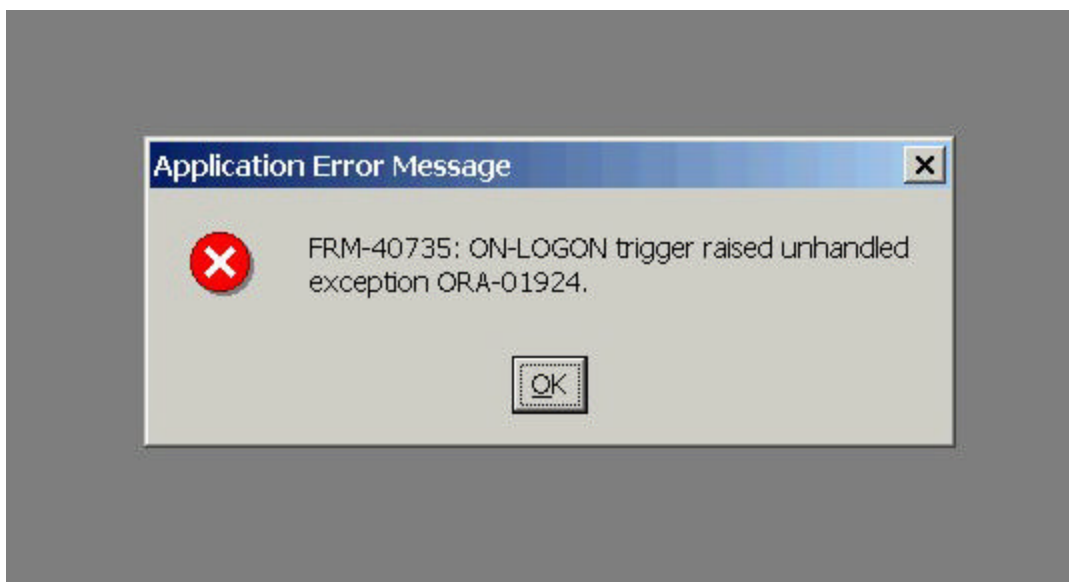
To: AQS REGISTERED USERS

From: Jake Summers
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Date: 02/04/02

Subject: AQS IN PRODUCTION

We are excited to announce that the new Air Quality System is in production and ready for use. The new client software has been made available at this address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsmansnew.html>. The new client (aqv_v2.00.exe) must be down loaded and installed as well as the revised Oracle software (oracle6i_runtime.exe). Any previous version of the client will not connect to the database (AQSPROD) and will create an error screen.



All user Oracle passwords have been reset by the Oracle Data Base Administrator. After the client has been down loaded and installed, each user should access the database and change their Oracle password so security will be maintained. The initial new password for all users is *[not shown here]*. This is the password to use on the client sign on screen the first time. Users also need to get Unix passwords reset for Canyon and Volcano if they are not currently valid or can not be remembered.

An AQS Implementation Conference call was held on January 29 with Regional Office AQS contacts. The summary below includes most items discussed. Please pay particular attention to the initial plan for data loading as discussed in the summary below under # 3 and try to follow as closely as possible.

AQS IMPLEMENTATION CALL SUMMARY

JANUARY 29, 2002

A conference call was scheduled and held on the AQS implementation on January 29 with the Regional Office AQS contacts. Representatives from most Regions participated in the call. The purpose of the call was to provide an update to the regions on the system implementation. This summary provides the information discussed during the call.

1. Status and Schedule

The initial production database containing raw data for the years 1998 to 2001 has been loaded for use. All summary calculations for this data have been completed. All raw precision and accuracy data values have been loaded and partial summaries have been calculated. These calculations will be completed as part of the next data load.

The regression testing for AQS client software has been completed and some minor corrections are being made. This software will be delivered tomorrow January 31 for final testing and distribution. The AQS client software will be available for down load from the web. The new version must be used for production as the old version will not be able to access the database.

All users will receive an email notifying them when the new system is ready for production. A new password for the Oracle database must be used on the initial client screen to log onto the database. All users must change that to a unique password that is not shared and managed using recommended procedures.

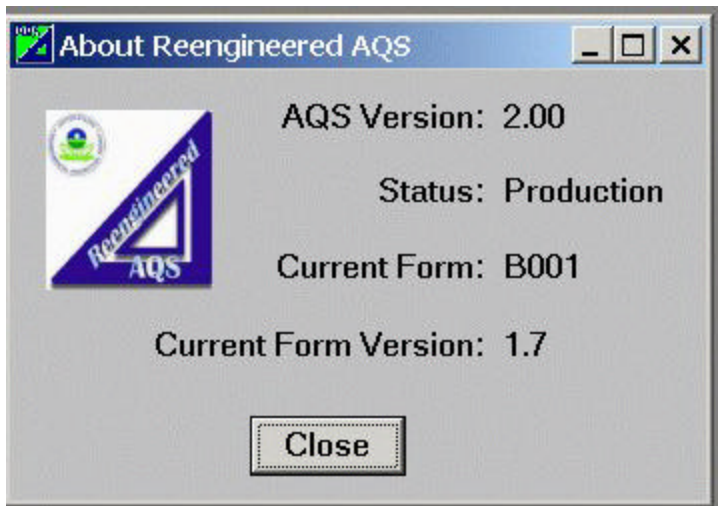
A few user profiles must be updated and the update authorization listing will be distributed to regional offices for review.

The conversion process identified data that could not be converted. Some of the rejected data has been written to the Correct tables for some screening groups. Each screening group owner should review their file for rejections. Other rejections will be distributed to regional contacts for correction with Maintain or other system processes.

2. User Support

This service will be provided through the same call center (NCC Customer Support Help Center) that has been used in the past for the mainframe system. The toll free number is : 800 334-2405. This is the number to call for reporting any problems for the new AQS as well as for all requests for password resets and for SecuRemote issues.

In order to simplify the process of reporting software problems, the user needs to record the error message that appears in the error block (Oracle error number and text) as well as the information below:



This is available by using the Help -About drop down within the client while on the specific screen that the error occurred.

As with the mainframe system, requests for reference table updates, data interpretation questions, new screening group requests and data problems should be sent to summers.jake@epa.gov.

User registration forms for new users must be submitted through your AQS Regional Contact, who then forwards them to Tami Laplante for addition to the database.

3. Upload Process

The system will be available for data upload as soon as the user has installed the client software, has been able to access the database, and has all valid passwords. Although the system will be available for updating backlogged data, the goal is to schedule this initial update processing to provide load management for both the database and the Unix Canyon server. Realizing that the load and correct processes are the most time consuming, we want to restrict these processes the first few weeks until database performance can be evaluated further.

We would like to use two methods to manage these two processes: (1) stagger the days that States perform loads and corrects based on the State FIPS number. Even numbered States process on even calendar days and odd numbered States process on odd calendar days, and (2) limit the file size for loads initially to about 1000 transactions until a successful load has been performed and then to no more than 10,000 transactions. A file of data from an agency for the PM2.5 monitoring network might be an appropriate size to load. The initial testing has indicated that an average of 4,000 old transactions or about 25,000 raw data values can be loaded per hour of wall clock.

Since the clock time for loads and corrects could be long for large files, the best process to manage the runs is to submit in the morning and wait for the email notification that the process has completed.

The message screen as you initially sign on will be used to communicate changes to this suggested upload processing as well as other information.

4. Status of Mainframe AQS

The mainframe AQS will remain available until all data has been converted and loaded into the new database either on the production database on Canyon or the archive database on the IMG server. This may not be completed until late Spring or early Summer.

5. Future Revision Plans

The first client software update is expected by the end of February. This update will include the final implementation of the EPA locational data standard, the password synchronization, and necessary software corrections identified during implementation. Other future activities include the changing of the AIRS query to access the public AQS production database outside of the firewall, conversion from a client/server to web based application, and other required modifications based on user requests and regulation changes.

6. Training Plans

Hands on training was conducted for all Regional/State/local users in the fourth quarter of 2001. Training is scheduled for the week of February 11 in RTP and in Region 7 for Tribes. Expanded training is also in the development phase to include a module on the data reported to AQS. This will include the required data as a result of the regulations for both monitoring and quality assurance.

7. AIRS Conference

The AIRS conference is being planned for the week of June 16-22 with the location not yet finalized but expected to be Louisville, KY. The AFS compliance community will sponsor their own conference this year in Reno, NV the week of June 10. More information will be provided as soon as the hotel contract has been completed.

Thanks,
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